

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 00692 161617Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 H-01 /082 W

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R 161609Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7311

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00692

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IR

SUBJECT: EC-IRAN

1. ON JANUARY 15 WE RAISED THE EC-IRAN PROBLEM AGAIN WITH HUQH ARBUTHNOTT (ASSISTANT HEAD, EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, EXTERNAL, DEPARTMENT, FCO). WE STRESSED THE DAMAGE THAT A PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD DO TO THE CURRENT US-EC MODUS VIVENDI ON PREFERENCES.

2. ARBUTHNOTT SAID THAT THE EC COUNCIL MAY DISCUSS RELATIONS WITH IRAN AT ITS MEETING NEXT WEEK, BUT HE DOUBTS THAT ANY DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME.

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THE UK, HE SAID, WAS SURPRISED BY THE CHIRAC COMMUNIQUE

AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENT THE  
FRENCH ENVISAGE WITH IRAN.

3. ARBUTHNOTT REAFFIRMED BRITAIN'S OPPOSITION TO AN  
EC-IRAN PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT -- BECAUSE OF THE  
ADVERSE EFFECTS IT WOULD HAVE ON MULTILATERALISM AND  
US-EC RELATIONS, AND BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT SUIT THE  
UK'S OWN INTERESTS. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT  
BRITAIN ALSO WANTS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH IRAN,  
AND HE DOUBTS THAT HMG WOULD HOLD OUT AGAINST AN  
EC-IRAN PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT IF THE OTHER EC  
MEMBER STATES WERE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH ONE. THE  
UK IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO SATISFY IRAN'S  
DESIRE FOR MEANINGFUL TRADE CONCESSIONS WITHOUT CON-  
CLUDING A SPECIAL PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT -- PERHAPS BY  
ADJUSTMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY'S GSP SCHEME. MEANWHILE,  
ARBUTHNOTT SAID, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE US STRESS  
TO THE IRANIANS ITS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE PROSPECT  
OF A PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT. WE SAID THAT OUR  
EMBASSY IN TEHRAN HAD DONE SO.

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## Message Attributes

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